

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

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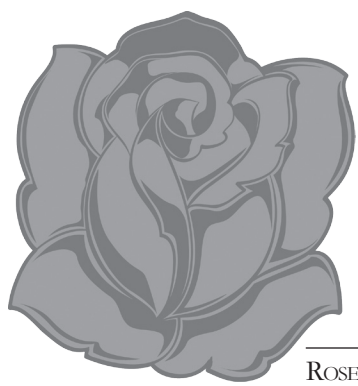
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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2010 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 7

Faculty, staff discuss Strategic Plan

Rose-Hulman looks towards waitlist and fundraising

Tim Ekl • editor-in-chief

Rose-Hulman students are never averse to a break from schoolwork, and Monday's convocation schedule was no exception. However, while students were relaxing, faculty and staff were hard at work planning the future of the Institute.

Monday's convocation time was used for a strategic planning session where President Matt Branam addressed personnel about budgetary and admissions issues. According to Branam, Monday's session was "the beginning of a two-year conversation in which we will consider how Rose-Hulman will continue to do what Rose-Hulman does into the future."

"As our society has developed, as Rose-Hulman has matured, as higher education has emerged in the form that it has taken in 2010, we can see that the business model for Rose-Hulman is not sustainable without us finding a way to supplement some of our support streams," Branam said. "We are too dependent on tuition

here at Rose-Hulman."

Branam emphasized that there was "no crisis" in the current financial situation at Rose-Hulman; instead, this conversation was a "necessary" one which should happen once a decade as a simple matter of planning. Currently, 55% of Rose-Hulman's income stream comes from revenue, while 14% comes from the school's endowment and only 9% comes from fundraising.

At the meeting, Rose-Hulman faculty and staff discussed a wide range of issues, including admitted class sizes, dependence on tuition as part of Rose-Hulman's income stream, and filling still-vacant Vice President positions within the institute.

One of the most important changes for the future admissions process is the potential introduction of a waitlist for applicants. This year's freshman class saw 552 students admitted for a target size of 475; in order to keep future classes at the appropriate size, Admissions is considering placing some

qualified students on a waitlist rather than admitting them outright.

"The demand for what we do here at Rose-Hulman is outstripping our capacity to supply it. For 128 years, we have admitted everyone who is qualified who has wanted to come. We won't be able to do that next year if the demand continues. That means we would have to pick and

choose from among some who are qualified," Branam said. "That would really be good for students because then we could pick students who wanted to pursue a degree in a discipline where we have not so much demand."

While Branam plans to eventually include students in the strategic planning process, at present finding that

opportunity is proving difficult.

"There really isn't a venue for us to meet," Branam said. "With the curriculum being what they are, I don't know if [students] would see [meeting] as a worthwhile venture. This is the beginning of a two-year conversation we need to have. It will involve eventually a wider group, including students."

BY THE NUMBERS

55

Percent of Rose-Hulman's income stream coming from tuitions and fees paid by students.

Percent of this year's freshman class (about 138 students) with family incomes under \$55,000

25

30

Percent of expenditures that go to financial aid. 30% of this aid comes from RHIT's endowment.

Rose-Hulman's "discount rate:" the percentage of paid tuition given in financial aid to students

38

9

Percent of RHIT's income stream that comes from fundraising and alumni donations.

Rose-Hulman is the second most expensive college in Indiana; only Notre Dame charges more

2

Men's basketball prepares for crosstown showdown

Tim Boyer • sports editor

For the second year in a row, the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team will open their season in Terre Haute, not in Rose-Hulman's Hulbert Arena, but downtown in the Hulman Center in an exhibition game against Indiana State University.

The Fightin' Engineers and Sycamores will face off at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2 after meeting last year for the first time since 1932.

The matchup will be the 55th in series history, with Indiana State holding a

slight 31-23 series edge over the Engineers. The Sycamores defeated Rose-Hulman in last year's exhibition matchup.

Tickets will be available at the Hulman Center box office on game night.

Rose-Hulman finished 7-18 last season and placed eighth in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. The engineers return with all but two players from last year, including junior mechanical engineering major Jason Haslag and junior civil engineering major Blake Knotts, who both tied for team-high scoring hon-

ors at 9.0 points per game last season, and four Rose-Hulman starters from last season's squad.

Indiana State compiled a 17-15 mark for its first winning season since 2001 last winter, highlighted by a 9-9 mark in Missouri Valley Conference play to earn the No. 6 seed for the league tournament. The Sycamores return two starters from last season's squad.

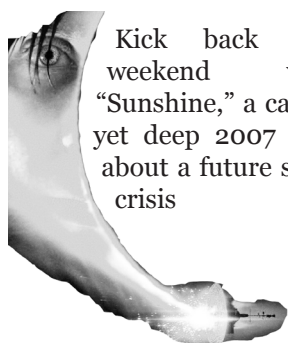
Rose-Hulman's basketball regular season schedule begins with a trip to the Case Western Reserve University Tournament on Nov. 19-20.



Then sophomore mechanical engineering student Jason Haslag led the Rose Men's basketball during last season's exhibition game versus Indiana State.

Rose-Hulman Athletics

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Kick back this weekend with "Sunshine," a casual yet deep 2007 film about a future solar crisis

PAGE 4: ENTERTAINMENT

Terre Haute's not so bad: learn what made it the Indiana Community of the Year for 2010



PAGE 5: LIVING

French workers' continued strike against the retirement age hike is unnecessary and obstructive

Students respond to the Thorn's stance on elitism in politics

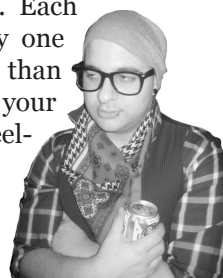
PAGE 6: OPINIONS



In pictures: women's volleyball defeats the Earlham Quakers 3-1 in a four-game series

PAGE 7: SPORTS

Learn about the moods of a hipster. Each and every one is cooler than any of your unhip feelings.

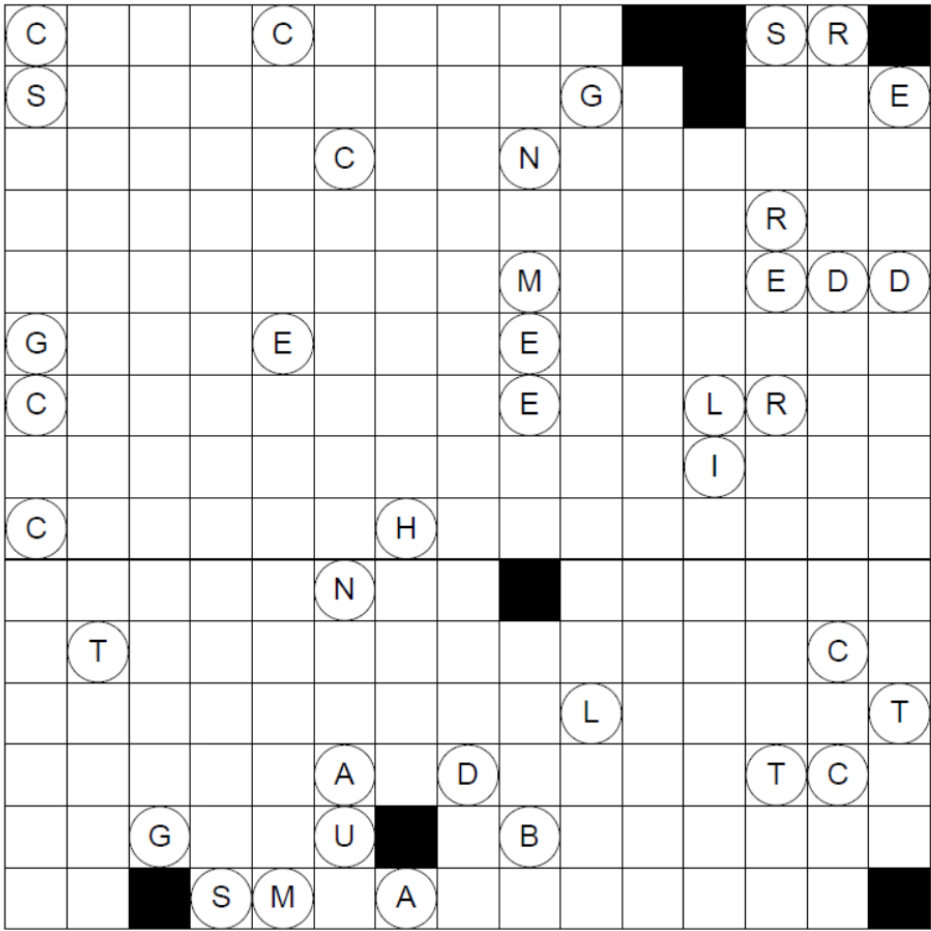


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Reverse Word Search

Rose Brewer • staff puzzler

Build the grid up until every single empty square is filled, and all words are placed. The first letter of every word is given and circled to get you started. Note that more than one word might start on the same exact letter!



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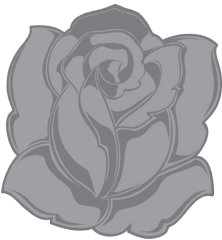
THE ROSE THORN

“Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.”

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Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief
Scott Gallmeier • news
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Melissa Schwenk • living
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Rose Brewer • puzzles
Matt Vargo • photographer
Carly Baehr • cartoonist

The Rose Thorn is a weekly publication produced by the members of the community of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend weekly meetings, held at 5:15pm on Wednesdays in Olin Hall. We also welcome and encourage all community members to submit articles, photographs, car-

toons, and letters to the editor for publication. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length, and the deadline for content submission is 5:00 p.m. two days prior to publication. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The editors reserve the right to

accept content changes submitted after deadline. All submissions must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information. The editors reserve the right to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print. All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the office of The Rose Thorn in Hulman Memorial Union room 249.

Material submitted for use in the print edition may also be included in the online edition located at http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu. The views expressed in The Rose Thorn are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the weekly Staff View published in the Opinions section, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.



Advertisement

Eyes on IFC



Here's what your Greek community has been up to:

The following two weeks after Bid Tuesday will remain closed rush for any freshman male who did not join a fraternity regardless of whether they rushed or not. This no

contact period ends on November 9th at which point anyone that did rush can decide to join any fraternity that had given them a bid.

This year was a very successful year for our Greek system. Our Sorority sys-

tem saw 37 women out of 114 join. The Fraternity system just signed 189 new members including 39% of the freshmen boys. Congratulations to all of our Greek Organizations and especially to each one of the newly signed members.

Meet your Greeks

Name: Kayla Yano

Sorority: Delta Delta Delta

Year: Senior

Major: Mechanical engineering major

Hometown: Ontario, OR

Future: Get a job!

Accomplishments while at Rose: Presi-

dent of Tri-Delta, Captain of the Rose Softball Team

When asked "What was the biggest benefit you received from going Greek here at Rose-Hulman?":

The biggest benefit from going Greek is having all my amazing sisters to support me. I know they'll be around even after college is over.



News BRIEFS

By Alex Mullans

Powerful storm blows through Midwest

Freshmen rising early for Bid Tuesday were greeted by an unexpectedly powerful storm that brought heavy rains and 60-80 mph winds to areas from Cincinnati to Chicago. The storm caused high wind and severe thunderstorm advisories to be issued throughout the Midwest region and caused cancellations at Chicago's O'Hare airport and power outages in Cincinnati. A Chicagoland commuter said that the wind was so strong that his car "was starting to veer off the road." Some users on Twitter coined the terms "Chiclone" and "Windpocalypse" to describe the storm. Utilities estimates suggest that more than 80,000 homes were without power the day of the storm.

Wikileaks drops more documents

The organization some media organizations call an "international anti-secrecy group" has obtained another batch of classified documents created by the Pentagon concerning the Afghanistan war. Since posting a large percentage of the documents on the Wikileaks website, the organization has come under attack from the Pentagon, with spokesman Colonel David Lapan saying that "WikiLeaks as an organization is irresponsible in taking hundreds of thousands, potentially in this case, at least tens of thousands in past instances, of classified stolen documents and publishing them on the Web." Founder Julian Assange has responded to the criticisms via tweet: "Rather than apologizing for misleading the press, the Pentagon tries to bully it into not reporting."

Indonesian volcano erupts, kills 18

Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most volatile volcano, erupted Tuesday and killed at least 18 people. Some scientists are discussing the possibility that a larger eruption is coming, but others feel that the current eruption is releasing some of the pressure in the lava dome of the volcano. To complicate matters, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra caused a tsunami the day before. Most deaths and injuries from the eruption have resulted from the large cloud of searing ash produced by the eruption.



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wikipedia.org

Superman/Batman: Apocalypse

Eli Baca • staff writer

While Marvel may be unveiling hit after live action hit, DC has taken a different turn with their movie task force. DC Comics has started releasing their “greatest hits” in animated movie form, and the latest one, Superman/Batman: Apocalypse, is a nice animated version of the graphic novel, Superman/Batman: Supergirl, but it just can’t rise above the expectations to deliver a hit. Tim Daly and Kevin Conroy, the Superman and Batman of the voice casting world,

returned to give animated fans a nice treat, and science fiction-ista Summer Glau joined the ranks as Supergirl, but it was Andre Braugher as Darkseid that continued to deliver and make the most evil character in the DC Universe even more evil and threatening. Andrea Romano is the best voice caster in the business, and makes good on that title in this film. The Supergirl story arc was one of the better tales from the Superman/Batman franchise as it brought back Supergirl in a great way and really gave fans a taste of what Su-

perman and Batman are willing and able to do given the right circumstances. The movie sticks to the plot, mostly, and tries to get this idea across, but without the end battle being the same, the movie just can’t get enough steam to be decent. Overall, DC wanted to give fans a little treat, and die-hard fans will be delighted, but this film does nothing more than tell a good story badly. Review Rating: 2 elephants



Batman: Under the Red Hood

Eli Baca • staff writer

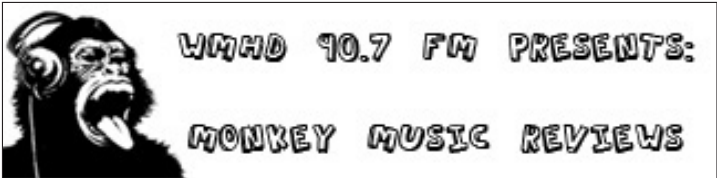
What’s the worst part about the awfulness that was Superman/Batman: Apocalypse? The fact that the previous DC Comics Animated movie was so fantastic! Over the summer, DC released Batman: Under the Red Hood to very positive reviews. It stands to be the top rated direct-to-video Batman movie at Rotten Tomatoes, and IGN gave it 8/10. The movie is one of the best Batman films and one of the best DCU Animated movies. Andrea Romano cast some different

actors as the title characters with Bruce Greenwood as Batman, Jensen Ackles as the Red Hood, and Neil Patrick Harris as Nightwing. The best, as usual for Batman films, was the Joker, played by John DiMaggio. His laugh, while not Mark Hamill’s legendary laugh, still gave the maniacal villain a creepily psychotic twist to the already crazy-ness of the Joker. The original comic tale was heart-breaking, then just insane, and the movie doesn’t pull any punches. This is an adult Batman film that doesn’t make light of any of the downright gruesome

situations. The comic was a classic, and now the movie is a classic as it stays (roughly) true to the comic and keeps the overall grittiness exactly the way it should be. Batman has always been a character walking the fine line between children’s audiences and adult audiences, and Under the Red Hood firmly plants him in the adult category—doing so with gusto. This one is a must-see for any true Batman fan. Review rating: 5 elephants



wikipedia.org



Ryne Bell • monkey writer

The album “This is Happening” by LCD Soundsystem begins with “Dance Yourself Clean,” which has a laid back groove, smooth background vocals, and a steady synthetic bass beat giving it a unique sound. About halfway into the song, a nice electronic break disrupts the smooth sound while keeping a laid back feel. This song is a great example of how this album keeps its emphasis on the music with lyrics built into, rather than placed over top of, the music, as opposed to the “Sound of Silver,” LCD Soundsystem’s

previous album, which was much more lyrically focused. Once you think you’ve got the album figured out, “I Can Change” comes on with a similar feel, but a very refreshing sound from the very beginning. It has synthesized drums that actually come off quite nicely with a very musical sound. “I Can Change” is the most lyrically focused song on the album, but the musical quality is maintained throughout. “You Wanted a Hit” is unfriendly to the radio with an intro over 3 minutes long and long verses totaling over 9 minutes; it repeatedly states that LCD Soundsystem doesn’t do hits which is ironic because most of their hits have not followed the traditional method of obtaining commercial success. The last song on the album “Home” is quite good and focused primarily on the music, but with the characteristic

smooth vocals developed throughout the album. It is in a sense a musical mixture of the styles presented in “This is Happening,” summing up the album and LCD Soundsystem in general. This album gets an overall rating of 4 Elephants for awesome musicality, progressive development, and a smooth, laid back electronic feel; it is very danceable, although a tad slow depending on the venue.



stereopirate.wordpress.com



movieposteraddict.com

Hobey Tam • staff writer

Most movies can be placed into very defined categories. Such films would include The Matrix series or the Saw series – they have defining characteristics which make classifying fairly easy (action and grotesque horror/suspense, respectively). However, there seldom comes along a movie that intellectually challenges the audience and because of this defining trait, Sunshine is unique. These movies could be in a myriad of categories ranging from action to suspense. These movies use a genre but depict a theme of mankind so vividly, that it’s above all the mainstream movies going and hitting the big screen to make a buck. Themes of mankind being man vs. man, man vs. nature, and man vs. himself. The last major blockbuster that accomplished this was Inception, however, many overlooked an excellent sci-fi film starring Cliff Curtis, Cillian Murphy, Michelle Yeoh, and Hiroyuki Sanada – Sun-

“Sunshine”

shine. The premise is 50 years into Earth’s future. Scientists calculate that the sun will burn out thus we as humans constantly trying to defy nature try to counteract this by – for lack of a better phrase – flying a huge nuclear bomb into the sun. This plan failed once before however seven years later, a crew takes flight again towards the sun to try and give it more energy. The film depicts this epic voyage to the sun and all the twists and turns. Though fairly fast-paced in the beginning, the movie’s end revelations are well worth it. Internal conflict of man vs. himself is always at play – moral content of all characters are tested. Man vs. man is present, however there will be no spoilers in this review. Man vs. nature is an all encompassing theme of this movie and is done very well however what I found the most interesting is the underlying theme of Man vs. God. This paragraph may seem useless because I sim-

ply will not spoil anything for you, but I want to make it clear that, bottom line, this movie is more of a “deep thinker” movie and the ending describessuch abstract concepts and depicts these themes so well that you will get the feeling you got at the end of déjà vu. I wouldn’t recommend this movie necessarily for a bros or girls night out (but this is Rose-Hulman so it might be a viable option). This would be an okay date movie but more often than none, this movie is more for the quiet Saturday or, God forbid, uneventful Friday. But then again, if the crowd you are with can sit through a paced movie like this – more power to you. Pop this movie into a 50” tv on the floor and follow Dr. Graves’ instructions to having a good time – make some popcorn. Review Rating: 4 elephants



Prioritizing my Rose life

Kurtis Zimmerman
staff writer

Tired of doing course work yet?
Me too. That's why I thought I'd take this time to talk about prioritizing my life.
You see, as students at Rose-Hulman, you understand the copious amounts of homework, project documentation, group meetings, and studying that go in to succeeding. Sure, there are some classes that are lighter on homework or may not have a term project, but if so that means they are probably heavier on material and in the end it all tends to balance out. Even so, everyone has experienced those nights where you simply don't have any assignments to complete (typically there is a test coming), and then there are those nights where you're awake at awful hours of the morning putting the finishing touches on an Economics paper that may or may not be logically structured or even have periods due to your drowsiness.
For these reasons, it's important to prioritize your schedule so you at least find yourself in these situations less often. I've found a

pretty tried-and-true (if you consider three quarters tried-and-true) formula that tends to keep my days consistently busy but also finds me sleeping consistently and not getting frustrated with homework or projects as often.
First of all, try to set at least a faint outline of a schedule. It's surprising how much of a difference taking advantage of your off-hours (those lovely little time periods between classes) can help open up your night hours. Sometimes I find myself able to finish up an assignment between two classes, and other times taking a quick half-hour nap is extremely useful. It keeps me more alert during my late afternoon classes and allows me to make it to the 4:15 bell. Also, it isn't a terrible idea to plan out when you are going to work on which assignment. On the other hand, if you have a professor that assigns homework

every night, it helps to at least start on each assignment the day it's assigned. This isn't always possible, but usually the topics are fresher on your mind that same day and you can whip through the problems at lightning speed (or at least somewhere close).
Second, don't be afraid to make extra-curricular activities a priority, whether they are group activities, a hobby you enjoy, or just blocking off time to watch your favorite TV show each week. For instance, I used to be frustrated by my amount of homework that kept me from having time to read for pleasure. Sure, I did a lot of textbook reading (where reading = skimming), but I had little time to pick up a Michael Crichton or John Grisham book. This year I decided to leave about an hour or so a day to just sit down and read and I've managed to finish a few books already this year because of it. In

fact, I find taking a break from a tough homework assignment to read a great way to clear my mind so that when I return to the problem I have a new outlook and can usually knock it out more easily. Sometimes this decision also means I don't get to one of my assignments until the next day, but as long as I stick to my faint schedule, I tend to still get everything finished early enough.
Lastly, keep your goals in mind constantly. I wrote last year about New Year's resolutions (and then spring resolutions), and when you find yourself becoming busy and stressed, it's a great time to reflect on your goals and reevaluate your progress. Long-term goals like succeeding at Rose can be met with short-term goals like prioritizing your homework and study schedule, but don't let that consume your life. Taking time for leisure here and there is fantastic for clearing your mind, and allowing time to just sit and think can help refocus your goals.
Now, if you would please excuse me, I've just run over my allotted "Thorn article writing" time.

Other times, taking a quick half-hour nap is extremely useful.

Why so much hate for the Haute?

Stephen Mayhew • guest writer

As a Terre Haute native, I get a little annoyed each time I hear someone complain about Terre Haute. It's even more frustrating when I probe a little, and find that the person hasn't even been east of 46. I get the impression that someone many years ago started making fun of Terre Haute, and it became what cool people did, regardless of the facts. Please: if you must complain about Terre Haute, at least have good reasons.
So before you complain that there is nothing to do in Terre Haute, make sure you have visited the parks (I can think of 4 major ones offhand: Deming, Collett, Hawthorn, and Fairbanks) and found them unsatisfactory; make sure you

interior of Hatfield Hall ever again.
Before you complain that there is nowhere to eat in Terre Haute, make sure that Taj Mahal makes you gag, and Exotic Thai is too exotic; make sure Stables is in fact too expensive, and Sushi Umi is too fresh; make sure you can't find the right ingredients at Wal-Mart, or Kroger's, or Baesler's, or the Asian Market on Wabash; make sure the pizzas at Wise Pies are too sophisticated.
If you have done all of these things, and still have complaints, then you are well on your way to earning complaining rights.
But even if you have earned said complaining rights, it is a fact that Terre Haute is your new hometown, and as such demands at least some respect. For most of us, when we leave Rose,



The Haute was named Indiana's Community of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.
terrehaute.in.gov

have tried the Frisbee golf course at Deming Park, and hate it; make sure you have fallen asleep in a Terre Haute Symphony concert, and still didn't enjoy it; make sure you have gone to the Farmer's Market and found nothing but McDonald's booths; make sure you are bored by the fishies at Inland Aquatics; make sure you have gone to every Rose-Hulman performing arts event, and have decided that you don't ever want to see the gorgeous wood and velvet

we will have lived in Terre Haute for 4 years, which is about 1/5 of life so far, and about 1/20 of a total lifespan, and which is plenty of time to settle down and build a relationship with a city. But not only is it your hometown, it is your alma mater's hometown. When you chose Rose, you chose Terre Haute as well.
So next time you find yourself about to tear up the Haute, make sure you have earned the right to do so, and do it respectfully.

Are you not dead? Sounds like you'd be a good candidate to write for living!

thorn-living@
rose-hulman.edu

Depending on people

Melissa Schwenk • living editor

For a long time I took pride in never asking for help. I wouldn't ask my parents for money until I was desperate, would offer to drive everyone in my car whenever a group went out, and would struggle through homework for hours instead of asking a professor or friend, all so I could have a sense of independence.
This need to feel self-sufficient probably stemmed from reading too many historical novels with female heroines, but that isn't the point. The point is that I didn't really benefit from this; sure, I was keeping score in my head but no one else knew or cared if I did everything without asking for help.
Ever since I got to Germany I've noticed how much better life can be if you let people help you out once in a while. Asking the student next to you in class if you can see their notes because you can't read the professor's writing may start a friendship that you didn't expect. Knowing that your friend will make sure you

both get home safely may let you enjoy a party more. Having someone to talk to might give you a better perspective on a tough situation.
This is a two-way street though. You have to be willing to patiently explain homework problems when asked, be the designated walker once in a while, and be willing to listen to a friend, even if you are busy.
Being willing to ask and receive help will probably make you a more likeable person as well; it's hard to like someone who is perfect and can do everything. Making friendships work is easier when there is a mutual benefit to both parties, which is hard to achieve when one person appears to be completely self-sufficient.
I'm not saying you should depend on other people all the time; on the contrary, asking for help makes those times when you don't need it all the better. Just remember the next time your car breaks down, that before AAA, people depended on friends to help them.

Letters to the editor

To the Editor:

Rose-Hulman doesn’t have a dangerous campus—a glance at our crime statistics reveals as much. There’s a lot of truth behind the descriptors commonly applied to life at the college: friendly, open, familial.

However, members of the Rose community sometimes do petty, insensitive, and cowardly things. These actions are certainly not criminal, but they do reflect poorly on the individual who commits them and, in a larger sense, suggest nasty undercurrents of the college’s discourse. I’m writing about one such event.

Once a year for the past four years my office door and the bulletin board next to it gets vandalized. Moench AL 102 is tucked away, Harry-Potter-like, underneath the wide metal staircase near the side entrance of the building. My posted items are innocuous: my quarter schedule, student conference sign-up sheets, a postcard depicting the iconic image of the Beatles walking across Abbey Road, advertisements for guest speakers and campus events, and the poem “Engineer’s Corner,” by Wendy Cope, for example. There’s also a small dry-erase board on which people can leave messages.

In 2008, I purchased the album Warpaint, by the Black Crowes. One of the goodies packaged with it was a small American flag sticker with a peace sign in the blue section instead of fifty stars. I liked it, and it didn’t seem controversial. I stuck it in the lower left-hand corner of my dry-erase board.

I arrived at work the next morning to find the peace sign scratched out. This was irksome, but I got on with my life. I placed pieces of magnetic poetry with the words “learn,” “more,” and “education” over the defaced sticker, and all of it’s still there. Take a look at it, if you’re in my neck of Moench.

The instance of vandalism that prompted this letter, though, happened last week. For the fourth year in a row someone removed, from my bulletin board, a half-sheet of paper that said, “Gay? OK by Me.” Unity provides these signs for free. They are not uncommon sights around campus. I posted the sign on Wednesday, Oct. 20, and it was gone by Friday, Oct. 22. Someone slunk around after tenth hour and vandalized the space outside my office.

The items themselves—a sticker, pieces of paper—have no monetary value. The acts themselves are immature. What I’m concerned by, and willing to argue for, is the ugly symbolism of tearing down Unity signs. As a straight supporter of LGBT rights, the continued removal of the signs is disturbing because of what the act connotes beyond a literal level—hatred of LGBT persons.

Since I’m unable to keep a sign posted: All students are welcome in my office. I don’t discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, race, gender, religious persuasion (or disinclination), ethnic background, or anything else. I won’t try to change your mind or your identity; I won’t try to convert you to my way of thinking. My office is a safe place for everyone, no matter if other people at Rose-Hulman think it should be otherwise.

If you don’t support peace, or LGBT rights, or whatever, that’s fine. Think, feel, and/or believe whatever you like. You can even post something on your office door, or on your residence-hall room wall. I may not agree with your viewpoint, but I do have to respect your space and your property. I won’t deface what belongs to others, even if anonymous individuals sneaking around at odd hours don’t extend me the same favor.

Corey M. Taylor
Assistant Professor of English

To the Editor:

In the Staff View column of the Oct. 22 edition of the Thorn, the consensus is that political elitism is not necessarily a bad thing. However, I believe that there is a misunderstanding at the base of this belief. As the article states, “Frankly, I wouldn’t mind a bit of honest elitism. Let’s face it: I choose representatives in government that I believe fight for issues my way, and I’m not up there running against them because I honestly think **they know the political landscape better than I do**” (emphasis added).

This is the key facet of the American people’s rebellion against the political elite, and yes, perhaps the pendulum has swung back a bit too far. You see, a vast majority of people feel that their representatives no longer represent them because the politicians don’t just think they know the political landscape better than the layperson, they think they know everything better than the layperson. When 70% of the population, entire groups of medical professionals, lawyers, insurance adjusters, and just about everyone who would be affected by the proposed healthcare reform say it’s a bad idea, we think the politicians should listen. When they don’t and barge ahead without paying the experts heed, we get frustrated.

As an engineer, I understand that my specialty is in engineering. Should an engineering problem arise near me, it would make sense for people to come to me. I am not, however, a doctor. No one should come to me if they are having a heart attack. I am not trained for that. Similarly, I am not a lawyer. If someone needs legal advice, they should seek a lawyer before me.

You see, at the core of this belief (and the rebellion against elitism) is something we have been told since Day 1 here at Rose: if you don’t know, ASK. We understand that the political elite are just that, better at politics than us. But this does not mean they understand other facets better than the people working in those fields. By the same measure that we delegate political power to those better at politics, we feel they should in turn delegate power to those most knowledgeable in its specific use. Forgive me for the following rather broad generalization, but it seems in the last few years, there have only been two breeds of politicians to pick from. The arrogant political elite, who believe they know better about everything than everyone, and the common man or woman. We’ve been ignored by the former, leaving us with only the latter.

Andrew Roth
Senior mechanical engineering major

STAFF VIEW: French workers need to face reality

CONCURRING: 9
DISSENTING: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 1

Two years. That amount of time is causing strikes and riots that are currently costing France \$557 million dollars per day, according to the French minister of finance. That’s ridiculous, plain and simple. The cause: President Nicolas Sarkozy’s pension reform, which would raise the retirement age in France from 60 to 62 to try

There are more people needing support and fewer people paying for that support.

and stop the 45 billion Euro per year losses of the current pension program. It doesn’t take away any of the benefits workers receive once they get to retirement age (benefits which most would consider far more generous than the US equivalent Social Security), it just puts those benefits off to an age equivalent to most other developed nations.

France faces the same issue as developed nations from Japan to the US: there are more people needing support and fewer people paying for that support. The US has chosen to deal with that problem by borrowing ridiculously large amounts of money, which it can get away with. France, however, doesn’t have that luxury. Also, its politicians are smart enough to realize that you can’t run a government in perpetual deficit without eventually paying some heavy costs. So, its government has made the right decision and drafted new legislation to control government spending before they hit the crisis level.

But, in the French tradition, unions went on strike. Students rioted. And certainly, the country has a history with this sort of thing. Fifteen years ago, 24 days of strikes facilitated by unions across the country

defeated a previous attempt at pension reform. But, labor minister Eric Woerth quite rightly said: “...what can we do? Not reform the pension system?” This time, however, the French senate got it right; they did their jobs, debated the bill, and passed it. But even now, sadly, some unions are still calling for strikes and demonstrations within the next few weeks. More than one quarter of French service stations are without fuel because of barricades placed by union strikers.

It is odd, then, to consider that the protestors should have seen it coming. Sarkozy was elected in 2007 with 53% of the vote after running on a campaign to “change the French way of thinking... and to teach the French to work harder and to cut their vacations.” How do you not expect reform of the pension system after your candidate campaigns on reforming the pension system?

Perhaps the most ideal outcome of this whole mess, which more and more people are coming to realize, is that the sane and realistic among the French populace will quit striking and go back to their lives as normal. The leaders and the extremists will of course continue to fight for a long time, but the senate made the right choice by passing the bill. Reform is painful, but sometimes it’s a necessary reality.

Have opinions?
Send your rants and observations to
thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Strong first stroke

Rose-Hulman News

The Fightin' Engineer swimming and diving teams opened their 2010-2011 schedule with the annual Rose-Hulman Relays on Saturday.

The men topped Lindenwood by two points for top honors and were led by sophomore Jake Sheets, who recorded three second place finishes in three relays, 800 yard freestyle, 400 yard medley, and the 1500 yard free.

Sophomore Matt Ross, junior John Patterson, and sophomore John Huster combined to win the 3x100 yard butterfly relay with a time of 2:40.66.

Patterson also finished second in the 400 yard freestyle relay.

The women placed two points behind Lindenwood University for a

strong second place at the meet and were led by two teams which won their respective events.

Sophomore Nicole Richardson bolstered the team score with first-place finishes in one- and three-meter diving. Richardson scored 159 points in one-meter and 177.5 points in three-meter.

The 3-x-100 yard breaststroke team of freshman Stephanie McCown, freshman Mary Schultz and senior Katie Trella won with a time of 4:18.17.

Trella also teamed with sophomore Carley Shumate and sophomore Shannon Cunnien to win the 1500 yard freestyle in 17:28.26.

The swimming teams are in action again tomorrow as they travel to Illinois Wesleyan.

Engineers outsmart Beavers

Kurtis Zimmerman
staff writer

In a Saturday afternoon game riddled with trick plays and turnovers, the Rose-Hulman Fightin' Engineers managed to hold their own and put up an impressive slew of offensive and defensive plays; by the time the fourth quarter came to a close, the Engineers had bested the Bluffton Beavers 40-13.

The game started with an unexpected on-side kick try that proved effective as junior mechanical engineering student Nick Schneider, who booted the short kick, recovered the ball to give Rose possession to start both halves. Rose made the best of this trick play by pushing down the field, capping off the 8-play drive with a touchdown, and the Engineers continued the rest of the game tied or better against the Beavers.

Bluffton attempted to fight back but found their best intentions suppressed by a fighting Rose-Hulman defense. Bluffton's Airic Steagall ran in for a 7-yard touchdown to tie the game 7-7 in the first quarter, but Rose's offense continued to put points on the board.

Senior mechanical engineering student Reed Eason caught one in the end zone to put the Engi-

neers up 14-7, and a quick turnaround gave the Engineers the chance to put up three points as Schneider sent one flying through the uprights from the 27-yard line. A strong Rose defense kept the Bluffton offensive line and after just two plays Bluffton's quarterback, Christopher Byrd, was sacked in the end zone by a combination of efforts from mechanical engineering students Matt Green, a junior, and Mark Fitz, a freshman. A quick drive down the field brought another seven points for Rose which sent the grass-stained Beavers back into the locker room down 26-7.

The Engineers returned to the field after halftime to defend their lead, and after a long and unsuccessful Bluffton drive, graduate student Calvin Bueltel carried in his second touchdown of the day to put Rose-Hulman up 33-7. Returning off back-to-back interceptions, senior mechanical engineering student Scott Eaton brought in the final score of the game, slating a Rose-Hulman victory at 40-7.

Rose-Hulman improved to 4-3 for the season and 3-2 in HCAC play, while the Bluffton Beavers fell to 3-5 and 2-4 in conference matchups. The Engineers will travel to Defiance College tomorrow in another conference game.



Top and bottom: Rose's Lady Engineers outsmart the Earlham Quakers to reach victory Wednesday night.

Rose-Hulman News



ENGINEER SCOREBOARD

| Women's Soccer | | Football | |
|--------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| 6 - 12 - 0 (3 - 5 - 0 HCAC) | | 4 - 3 (3 - 2 HCAC) | |
| Oct 9 | | Oct 23 | |
| Bluffton Univ. | 2 | Bluffton University | 13 |
| Rose-Hulman | 0 | Rose-Hulman | 40 |
| Oct 12 | | Men's Soccer | |
| Earlham College | 3 | 7 - 7 - 4 (4 - 2 - 2 HCAC) | |
| Rose-Hulman | 0 | Sept 25 - Overtime | |
| | | Bluffton University | 0 |
| | | Rose-Hulman | 1 |
| | | Sept 28 | |
| | | Earlham College | 1 |
| | | Rose-Hulman | 2 |
| Volleyball | | | |
| 17 - 8 (5 - 4 HCAC) | | | |
| Oct 9 | | | |
| Bluffton University | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Rose-Hulman | 20 | 19 | 17 |
| Oct 12 | | | |
| Defiance College | 25 | 9 | 26 |
| Rose-Hulman | 19 | 25 | 24 |
| Oct 14 | | | |
| Earlham College | 25 | 16 | 10 |
| Rose-Hulman | 20 | 25 | 25 |
| Rifle | | | |
| Oct 24 | | | |
| vs. Moorehead State University | | 4320 | |
| Terre Haute, Ind. | | points | |
| Swimming & Diving | | | |
| Oct 23 | | | |
| Rose-Hulman Relays | | Men — 1st | |
| Terre Haute, Ind. | | Women — 2nd | |

SPORTS BRIEFS

By Kurtis Zimmerman

Rangers and Giants face off

The 106th World Series began this past Wednesday as the Texas Rangers faced the San Francisco Giants after finishing up their respective championship series. The Rangers clinched the AL championship after six games against the reigning champions, the New York Yankees. Similarly, the Giants bested the Philadelphia Phillies last Saturday to take the NL championship after six games. The Giants come in with a barely better season record of 92-70 to the Rangers' 90 wins and 72 losses. Interestingly, Bengie Molina, current catcher for the Texas Rangers, is guaranteed a World Series ring after playing a considerable part of the Giants' regular season. Molina was traded to the Rangers midseason and will face his former teammates in the World Series, this marking the sixth time in World Series history such a situation has occurred.

NFL injuries shake up rosters

Eight weeks in to the NFL regular season, sports news is riddled with the status of several teams as key players are facing tough injuries. After suffering a shoulder injury during the Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants game, news broke Tuesday that quarterback Tony Romo will not need surgery but will be sidelined for six to eight weeks, most likely meaning he will not be returning to play this season unless the Cowboys find themselves in playoff contention come mid-December. Vikings quarterback Brett Favre is keeping his hopes up that his "knack" for quick healing will allow him to play Sunday despite two fractures in his left ankle, but Adam "Pacman" Jones will unfortunately miss the rest of his comeback season due to a neck injury that might require surgery. Lastly, in a season riddled with injuries, the Colts are facing another loss as receiver Austin Collie is looking at a few more weeks on the sidelines due to an injured right thumb.

"Overrated" Big Three tip off NBA season

Plagued with cries of "overrated" from the stands Tuesday night, the Miami Heat tipped off the NBA season with a stunning loss to the Boston Celtics. The new Big Three – LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh – disappointed Miami Heat fans with an 88-80 loss. In a regular season opener with the hype of a playoff matchup, Wade and Bosh racked up only 21 points between them, barely edging out the team's 17 turnovers for the game. The old Big Three of the Celtics – Ray Allen, Paul Pierce, and Kevin Garnett – combined for over half of the Celtics' 88 points and helped up the honor of the franchise's 17 title banners hanging above them throughout the game. Admittedly, Celtics coach Doc Rivers believes the Heat will jell into a title contender, but just as Miami's Dwyane Wade said at the postgame press conference, this was just one game of 82 and the season will push on.

The doom room dispatch

Bruce Coston
dairy product dude

For as far back as I can remember, I’ve been dealing with a very serious tribulation. This problem has been a chronic issue that has plagued me and many others like me. It’s often considered a very taboo subject in a number of different cultures, frequently putting people on the offensive when this certain topic is the subject of conversation. We’re all adults here, and I’d like to think that most of you have an open mind and can be mature about this, so I’m going to do it. I’m going to be the bad guy and talk about what nobody really wants to acknowledge, although the majority of the populace has to deal with this dilemma on virtually a daily basis. What I’m about to discourse may cut some of you like a knife, but it needs to be said, so here it is:

Milk crusties. What the

heck. We can put a flipping man on the moon, but we can’t keep our milk from forming those little nasty buggers, sent straight from the depths of purgatory to wreak havoc on our meals and tasty beverages, from around the rim of our hard earned milk jugs.

Talk about ruining your bowl of cereal, or even worse, your drink. You’re pouring, everything’s going good, there’s a nice steady flow coming from the jug that’s not too fast, not too slow, and the wind vectors are just right. The milk frolics up the inside of your glass with an eloquent ballet that intimately whispers, “Hey buddy. I’m here for you. I’ll never leave you, and I’m about to caress the inside of your tummy with my milky goodness.” In the distance, you can hear the faint sound of a mermaid playing a harp. Somewhere in Denmark, a dog barks.

Then you see them. The lit-

tle bastards have been lying in wait, scheming, patiently biding their time for the opportune moment to strike. The signal’s given. They jump.

blip *plop* *bloop*

Your hope for a good day sinks with the milk crusties under the surface. Your head, now hung low under the heavy burden of defeat, stares into the tainted liquid. What’s done is done. You hold a glass of what is no longer milk, but something foreign to you now, something evil. Do you futilely attempt to fish out the antagonists? No, they’re well trained and camouflaged and have certainly called for reinforcements by now. You’re largely outnumbered. Surrender is your only tactical option. They’ve won.

You lift the glass to your eager lips that say, “Yes. Yes!”, but in the back of your mind, a voice whispers, “Have you forgotten? Don’t do it. Think of the children!” Too late. As you

gulp down the white death, you try and convince yourself that everything’s okay. OK, the same sort of convincing you initiate when you see six inches of crack of a hunched-over hefty woman while shopping for Pop-Tarts in Wal-Mart.

You can feel the milk crusties battling your gums and throat lining as they voyage down into your belly. Afterwards, you have to wrench out the stubborn milk crusties that are still putting up a fight in the pockets between your cheek and gum.

Well I’ve had enough. This is America. We should not have to chew our moo-moo juice. It’s time that we stand up for our God-given rights. I say we become lactose intolerant until this problem has been remedied, until these milk crusties are conquered, once and for all.

Early to bed, early to rise, gives you more time to climb tree and ride bike.

Wacky prof quotes

“I used to know this guy who had pet rabbits. He stole tetracycline to give them when they had an infection. His name was Todd... I wonder what happened to him.”
— Dr. Coppinger, who may not really want to know.

“I’m a firm believer in suffering. That’s why I became a Rose professor.”
—Dr. Ditteon, who takes misery seriously.

“I’m saving that for when I decide to start doing drugs.”
—Dr. Clifton. Or perhaps it’s the other way around?

“Luckily I have this handy-dandy calculator watch. You guys are so envious of my watch.”
— Dr. Sutterer, well aware of watch envy.

“I have a colleague who performs all of his experiments on a dog.”
—Dr. Holder, on standardized animal testing.

Rose Profs say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

How are you feeling today?



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



Ironiic



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Ironiic

WE WERE GOING TO PUT CANDY HERE, BUT IT TURNS OUT THE 3-D PRINTER CAN’T HANDLE CHOCOLATE VERY WELL. SORRY!

Top “10” Ten Rose Halloween Costumes

Matt Melton • Hallow’s Eve herald

10. Your favorite professor. Bonus points for wearing it to their class, not saying anything, and seeing if they notice it.

9. Anything from Minecraft. Blockiness is a must. *[Ed. note: If you’re a creeper, you’ll scare more than just freshman girls.]*

8. A Transformers costume that really transforms. Bonus points if the transformation is powered by machines.

7. Mighty Morphin Power Rangers Megazord costume. You need five people to pull it off, but it would be the coolest Halloween costume EVER. Plus, if for some reason you don’t win best costume of the night award, you could easily just take it.

6. Mathematical Equations. Don’t know how to do it, but when someone figures it out, it will be awesome. *[Ed. note: Bonus points for Reals or Number Theory].*

5. Schrodinger’s costume. Am I wearing a costume? Am I not? How do you know?

4. A Failed Test. It’s everyone’s worst nightmare!

3. The Internet. If someone does this right, it could be hysterical. *[Ed. note: On the downside, you’ll have to spend most of the night reminding people that you are not, in fact, a truck, but a series of tubes.]*

2. Bruce. Please please PLEASE someone do this one! (Note: It doesn’t count if you actually *are* Bruce. That’s just being lazy).

1. SharePoint. Walk around yelling things and offering to sell people things. The entire night.



ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman

Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today, we salute you, Mr. Halloween Under-Dresser. Instead of putting in five minutes and ten dollars at your local Wally World, you instead put on khakis, a polo, and attend the usual round of Halloween parties under the premise that you’re a ‘student’. You fail to make even a feeble attempt at popping the collar and adopting the guise of ‘bro,’ or ‘guido,’ instead, you display your lack of creativity like a proud badge that says “I’m just here to try and get with the sexy vampire/policewoman/nun/endocrinologist.” Though you laziness makes even the worst attempts at costuming seem serviceable, how difficult is it to don a bed sheet and some branches and channel a Bacchanal reveler? No one’s asking you to create a life-size Optimus Prime or a full set of Master Chief armor: given two black t-shirts and some creative tying, you too can be a ninja. So today, we salute you, Mr. Halloween Under-Dresser... because even in a room of people dressed as Ninja Turtles and Lady Gaga, you still look like a tool.